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study, by showing how much it costs the farmer to live, gives data which, when added to the farmer's labor income, show the entire earnings of the farm business.

Second, it clears up the myth which still prevails in the minds of vast numbers of people that the farm family subsists directly from the farm on which it lives. Both in respect to what was spent for food and also with regard to the total living costs, the farm is shown by this bulletin to have furnished directly a smaller amount than was purchased. Of the total cost of living of the farm family, the farm indeed furnishes only 22.1 per cent, while of the food alone which is used, the percentage is slightly more than twice as much. The investigator observes that to the extent only that farm products are cheaper to the farmer through not having had to undergo distribution through the middlemen system it may be said that living expenses are lower upon the farm than elsewhere.

The methodology of the investigations has great practical significance also because, as the author says, "the facts [farm living costs] have never been known . . . as the cost of farm items could not be estimated." The bulletin explains, however, that they can be estimated; and, while the plan followed of valuing the farm produce which had no local market—garden produce, fruit, etc., by its costs of production seems cumbersome, nevertheless, it is shown that it can be done. The price of purchased commodities and household labor presented no difficulties, but the appraisal of rent and furniture equipment was not so easy. Indeed, the rent expense was made an arbitrary charge, a flat interest rate being used upon the average value of the houses.

As is frequently the case in every field of affairs a new and genuine truth may prove to be the open sesame to a vast number of related problems. So it is claimed for this study that it will assist in determining "the annual expenditures on farms," "equitable wages for farm help," "the total cost of man labor," and "the gross income in farming as a business."

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Marketing and Farm Credits. A Collection of Papers and Documents Read at the Fourth Annual Sessions of the National Conference on Marketing and Farm Credits, Chicago, Dec. 4-9, 1916. (Madison, Wis.: Charles W. Holman, Secretary, 340 Washington Bldg. 1917. Pp. 546. \$2.00.)

This is the best of the three volumes in this up-to-the-minute

series on agricultural economics. All viewpoints are represented in this volume, both as to principles and as to programs. Main cleavages of opinion arise over two questions, (1) price fixing and (2) government help versus self help. The formal papers (and to a limited extent stenographic notes on the discussions) are grouped under four main heads: Credit, Land Settlement, Marketing, and Organization of Agriculture.

Credit is discussed by five speakers, the chief topic being the Federal Farm Loan act. A representative of the Farm Loan Board analyzes this act and considers it "coöperative credit," although it is strictly a first mortgage land credit law. The success of actual coöperative credit, as worked out in North Carolina, is set forth by William R. Camp. Alphonse Desjardins, father of coöperative credit in Canada, expresses the belief that the United States will discover and remedy the defects in the new Farm Loan act. "I do believe most strenuously," he says, "in the great principle of self-help, not having any faith in any state-aid system, believing as I do, that the latter is more demoralizing than educative for the masses."

The land settlement problem receives the ablest treatment of any subject in the volume. Professor Mead brings to the discussion of this topic his long years of experience in Australia, and his more recent experience as member of the California Commission on Land Colonization and Rural Credits. Land settlement, he says, is a public question, not a private question—a question of the "home-seeker" versus the "homesucker." Professor E. Dana Durand shows the importance of colony settlements in the peat lands and logged-off lands of the North. He favors state action to the extent of clearing or draining the land, of granting credit to the extent of cost of improvements, of selecting and developing first the best suited lands, and of sale of state lands only to bona fide settlers. Max Loeb, of Chicago, proposes a land certification scheme whereby the buyer would be truly informed as to his purchase, a sort of "pure-food law" applied to land purchase. Hector MacPherson, of Oregon, condemns the promoters and speculators who exploit and rob homeseekers. Frederic C. Howe proposes as the first solution of the land question the single tax. As an alternative he proposes government colonization. The speakers on this topic show that the situation as concerns land ownership and settlement is critical. And we have no land policy.

One hundred and fourteen pages are given to the discussion of

the live-stock marketing problem. And not one packer is heard from. The growers of Texas, Colorado, Wyoming have their day in court. All is not well with the live-stock industry, according to these speakers, and the blame is laid at the doors of the great packing houses. More information is demanded by the speakers before any program of action is chosen. An investigation of the live-stock industry by the Federal Trade Commission is urged. Coöperative packing houses are now on trial in the United States. F. A. Bingham, vice-president of the farmers coöperative packing plant at Rockford, Illinois, discusses that plant. "With regard to the marketing of the product," says he, "there is nothing to it." This house had just bought its first carload of stock. Charles W. Holman sets forth in great detail the history and failure of the farmers coöperative packing plant at LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Other phases of marketing treated are perishable farm products, cheese and whole milk. The by-laws of the National Milk Producers Federation are given in full.

Price fixing by law, causes of fluctuations of prices of grain, marketing of export wheat, factors that govern grain prices, are some of the topics very ably covered in the paper of Julius H. Barnes. Price fixing is further discussed by J. N. McBride, state market director for Michigan. He favors "transference of price making from the buyer to the producer," and contends that this "is the rule in other industries." The Michigan bean growers have for the past two years fixed a minimum price, but the market price has kept above this minimum.

Kenyon L. Butterfield outlines a basis for a national agricultural organization, springing from purely voluntary coöperative movements among farmers, with the local community as the unit of organization. The movement must be primarily in the hands of the farmers themselves. They can federate with county and state federations or with a national organization. This would furnish clearing houses to provide a program and a policy.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Carl S. Vrooman, speaks eloquently of the farmers' fight "with the usurer, the fake middleman, the transportation shark, and the other business pests that feed off the profits of the farmers' business dealings."

The volume contains the provisional constitution and by-laws of the National Organization Society of America and also a full copy of all resolutions adopted by the conference. The meaning of the conference and the work of the N. A. O. S. are discussed by President Frank L. McVey.

The volume is well edited. Its mechanical make-up is excellent. All students in the field of agricultural economics will find this work one which they can ill afford to be without. Correct and sane agricultural policy is foreshadowed in this volume.

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NEW BOOKS

- BILLINGS, G. A. *Seasonal distribution of farm labor in Chester county, Pennsylvania.* Contribution from the Office of Farm Management. United States Department of Agriculture, Bulletin 528. (Washington: Superintendent of Documents. 1917. Pp. 29. 10c.)
- ELTZBACHER, P., editor. *Germany's food, can it last?* (London: Univ. of London Press. 1917. Pp. 256. 2s.)
- HARRIS, F. S. and ELLISON, A. D. *Dry-farming in Utah.* (Logan: Experiment Station. 1916. Pp. 35.)
- HOPKINS, C. G. *Why Illinois produces only half a crop.* University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station. Circular no. 193. (Urbana: 1917. Pp. 16.)
- JOHNSTON, J. *Food production in France in time of war. Supplementary report to the trustees of the Albert Kahn travelling fellowship.* (Dublin: Maunsel & Co. 1916. Pp. 32. 6d.)
- LUBIN, D. *National Chamber of Agriculture: a war measure mobilising our agricultural resources. Facts and deductions showing the need for the passage of Senate Bill 5973, 64 Cong., 1 Sess.* (Washington: Superintendent of Documents. 1917. Pp. 8.)
- MCLEISH, J. *A general summary of the mineral production of Canada during the calendar year, 1915.* (Ottawa: Department of Mines, Mines Branch. 1916. Pp. 45.)
- MCSWEENEY, E. F. *The food supply in New England.* (Boston: New England Federation for Rural Progress. 1917. Pp. 14.)
- MILLAR, A. *Wheat and its products; a brief account of the principal cereal: where it is grown, and the modern method of producing wheaten flour.* (New York: Pitman. 1916. Pp. 134. 85c.)
- MYRICK, H. *Agriculture and preparedness; an address to the Congress of Constructive Patriotism held under the auspices of the National Security League at Washington, D. C., 27 January, 1917.* (New York: Judd. 1917. Pp. 67. 50c.)
- PARKER, H. N. *City milk supply.* (New York: McGraw-Hill. 1917. Pp. xi, 493. \$5.)
- PONSONBY, T. B. *Agricultural labour. Standardisation as a means of improving the condition of rural employment.* (Dublin: Co-operative Reference Library. 1917. Pp. 27. 6d.)